The Full TRYALS, Examination and Condemnation Of Four Notorious Witches!

At the

Assizes held at *Worcester*, on *Tuesday* the 4th of *March*.

With the manner, how they were found guilty of Bewitching several Children to Death.

As also,

Their Confessions, and last Dying Speeches at the Place of Execution; with other Amazing Particulars concerning the said Witchcraft.

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An Account of the Tryals, and Examination, and Condemnation, of Four Notorious Witches, &c.

Some Wise Men in all Ages of the World, have been very hardly brought to believe the Account of Extraordinary Relations, especially about Witches *and* Witch-craft, *but it is an open Violence, or at least a manifest injury, to common Sence, to Condemn all Facts, as false, because some are so, at this rate all Criminals ought to be Acquitted, because some have Suffered undeservedly: But that there are, and hath been* Witches *and* Witch-crafts, *many Authors have prov'd at large from Reasons, Scripture, Antiquity, and the Expearance of all Nations and Ages. The following Narritive coming to my hand i thought it might be acceptable to the Publick, Especially since Providence designs those Eminent, Occurances rather for our Practical instruction than for a Subject of Notional* Speculation.

On *Saturday March* the 5th the Assizes being then at *Worcester*, the Tryals of *Rebecca West*, *Margaret Landis*, *Susan Cock*, and *Rose Hallybread*, Four Notorious and Reputed Witches, came on for several Diabolical and abominable Practises, by Witchcraft and Fascination on the Bodies of Children and Cattle, &c. The Court being Sat, *Rebecca West* was brought to the Bar, when after her Indictment was Read. *John Edes* was call'd as an Evidence against her, who Deposed that the said *Rebecca West* some Weeks a go Confess'd to him; that she had familiarity with the Devil, who came to her in the likeness of a young Man, promising her that she should be revenged of all her Enimies, and have what she desired, if she would deny God and wholy trust to him; and that the said Prisoner further told him, that upon request ing

ng the Devil to revenge her on one *John Start* who
Liv'd in the ſame Houſe, he quickly after Sickned
and Dyed, ſo that ſhe then thought he could do as
God, and thereupon deſired him to joyn in that
Wicked and Develiſh Art, *Mathew Hopkins*, alſo
Depoſed that the ſaid Priſoner Confeſſed to him ſince
in Priſon, that the Devil came to her one Night as ſhe
was going to Bed, and told her he would Mary her,
and that he then kiſſed her, but was as cold as Clay,
and that he took her by the Hand and leading her a-
bout the Chamber a turn or two, he ſaid they were
Married, and promiſed to be her Loving Hu band,
and to avenge her of her Enimies; and that ſhe ſent
the Devil to Kill the ſaid *John Hart*, which was done
accordingly. *Thomas Hart* Father of the Deceated De-
poſed that he verily believed that his Son dyed by
Witchcraft, and that during his Torture he heard
him cry out againſt *Rebecca Weſt*; a Docter of Phyſick
alſo ſpoke to the ſame Effect, as did ſeveral otheres;
Upon which being asked by the Court what ſhe could
ſay for herſelf, ſhe only alledged that her great Pove-
ty had occaſion'd all this, and pleaded guilty, deſiring
Mercy, but the Jury after having received their
Charge, Imediatly brought her in guilty of Murther
and Witch-craft.

Then *Margaret Landiſh*, was brought to the Bar,
and Arrain'd for Witch-craft, and Diabolical Sorce-
ry, *&c.* The firſt Evidence depoſed that about the
firſt of *December*, as the ſaid priſoner paſſed by his
Door, a Child of his, then pointed at her, ſaying
there goes *pegg* the Witch, upon which the ſaid
Margaret turn'd back and Clap'd her Hands in a

Three-

Threatning manner, telling her she should Smart for it, and that very Night the said Child fell Sick in a Raving manner, and dyed within three Weeks after. Another Witness deposed, that the said Child, when in its Violent Fitts, would often say that *pegg* the Witch was by her Bed side, making strange Mouths at her. Another Evidence deposed, that she once heard the said *Margaret* say, that she could not enjoy her Helth, if she did not send her Imps to do some Mischief or another, and that her Imps did usually suck two Teats near the privy parts; upon which the said Evidence being asked how she got this Confession from the prisoner, she reply'd that the said prisoner, did use her Endeavours to Intice her to be a Witch also, by telling her that she should want for nothing, and further added that she went with her to a Witches Meeting, where she saw the Devil in the likeness of a tall black Man, at which she was so much afrighted that she never went with her any more. Another young Woman spoke, partly to the same effect, and that she was once with the said *Margaret*, and other, in Mr. *Bargrvans* Orchard, consulting and plotting the Childs Ruin; the Childs *Docter* also deposed that she dyed of a *D*istemper, which was more than meerly Natural, and that she was under the Torture of some *D*iabolical Agent: The prisoner in her own defence, said that they were all Malicious people and deny'd that she had Confessed any thing to the Evidence, insinuating as if they had formerly an old Grudge against her, and thereupon made a strange Howling in the Court, to the great disturbance of the whole Bench. Upon which the Court having explain'd

lain'd and Sum'd up the Evidence, told the Jury hat as they ought to beware of Condemning the Innocent, yet if they thought the Credite of the Evidence ufficent in what they had depoſed, their Eyes ought ot to ſpare her, adding that the Holy Scripture declares, that we muſt not ſuffer a Witch to Live, Eſpecially, when guilty of Murther Tortures, &c. Whereupon the Jury after an Hours Conſultation rought her in guilty.

Suſan Cock, and *Roſe Hallybread*, was next Arraigned or Sorcery and Witch-craft, in Tormenting and Murthring of *Mary Peak*, and *John Peak*, the Children of *Obadiah Peak* of *Preſton*; The chief Evidence gainſt them were *Abraham Chad*, and *Elin Shearcraft*, who depoſed that they were preſent with the priſoners, hen they firſt attempted to Torment the ſaid Children; they being then going to enter into that deviliſh way of practiſe, and being asked how they went bout ſuch a damnable Action, they both were jointly declaring the whole matter, but the Court cauſed them to be Examined, apart and Seperate from one nother, to find whither their Evideece agreed: Whereupon *Abraham Chad* was Examined and the other Evidence had out of the Court; at which time, he he ſaid, *Abraham* depoſed that, in the Houſe of *Suſan Cock*, the two priſoners having made a great Fire, hey made the Shape of the deceaſed Children in Wax, nd puting them both on a Spit, one of priſoners urn'd it, while the other Stuck pinns and needles in heir Bellies, Heads, and Eyes, and told him that as hem Figuers waſted, the Children wou'd waſt and s the Spit wene round, they both Muttered to themſelves

ſelves ſtrange kind of words, which he did not underſtand: He alſo *Depoſed* that ſeveral Imps in the ſhape of Mice ran to and from the Fire, and that the next day he heard his Neighbours diſcourſe, how the Children weae Tormented, with ſtrange Prickings in their Eyes, Belly and Head, and ſo continued worſs, and worſs till they Dyed, which was about a Week after. *Elin Shearcreft* being call'd in, gave the very ſame Account, tho ſomthing more large and exact: The Father and Mother of the two Children ſaid, that about the ſame time that the Evidence mention'd, they cry'd out againſt the ſaid Witches by Name, and continualy made complaints, as if Pinns and Needles had been actually thruſt into their Bodies, without Intermiſion for above an Hour together. A Midwife and other Women Depoſed in Court that ſearching the Bodies of the Priſoners, they found ſeveral large Teates in the ſecret Parts of their Bodies: and at the ſame time asking them, how they came there, they both made Anſwer, that the Devils Imps had done it: However upon their Tryals, they deny'd each Particular, alledging that they were not

en in their Sences, and seemed both to weep and howl, tho not one Tear could be descovered to fall from their Eyes; many more Witneses apeared against them, concerning the Bewitching Mr. *Peaks* Children, which for brevity sake I am forced to omit; but in fine it appearing on all hands that they had been very base and Notorious Persons, for several Years; and none appearing on their behalfs. The Court sum'd up each Circumstance with great care, tenderness, and Moderation, and delivered their Opinions to the Jury, with all the Leagal Fairness, and Justice that could be desired, or expected, even from the Witches themselves, desiring God to direct them in their Verdict. However the matter being proved against the Prisoners by unanswerable Demonstration, and undenyable Evidence, as well as Extraordinary Circumstances, the Jury brought them in both guilty of Witch-craft, Fascination and Murther, and received Sentance to be Burnt at the Stak all four together.

When being come to the Place of Execution, they made a strange and lamentable

Yeling,

Yeling and Howling, after which they confeſſed the Crimes, for which they Suffered and alſo declared how they had Kill'd abundance of Cattle for ſeveral years paſt, and that it was extream Pride, Malice and Revenge that cauſed them to Enter into ſuch a curſſed and Helliſh League with the Devil, who told them to the laſt, that he would ſecure them from Publick Puniſhment, but now to late, they found him a Lyer, as he was from the begining of the World. *Cock* and *Landiſh* ſeem'd penitent, deſiring all young Women to take Warning by their Deviliſh Lives, and Shameful Deaths, aſſuring the Spectators, that as Satan in the firſt Infancy of the World prevaild on Woman to bring his Helliſh attempts to paſs, ſo he ſtill ſtrives with that Sex, as the weaker Veſſels to Work their Diſtructions; they both ſaid the Lords prayer very Diſtnctly, but *Rebecca Weſt*, and *Hallybread* dyed very Stuburn, and Refractory without any remorſs, or ſeeming Terror of Conſcience for their abominable VVitch-craft.

I heartly wiſh the ſad Fates of theſe Four Notorious and Barbarous Wretches may be a warning to all Malicious, and Revengful perſons whatſoever, leaſt the Devil who ſets them on Work, at laſt pays them the Wages of Eternal Damnation, whieh undoubtedly will be the Diſportion of all thoſe, who wilfully Engages in the Service of ſo faithleſs Maſter.

FINIS